

How to Terrace A Farm.—By C. Gibson.

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## The Progressive Farmer.

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### ORGANIZATION OF COTTON GROWERS.

**This is the Only Way to Prevent Too Rapid Marketing and the Consequent Decline in Prices—Now is the Time for Action.**

Editors Progressive Farmer:

The question that was uppermost in the minds of many business men this morning was: What will be the Government's cotton report to-day? Very much to them depended on that report—the making by some and the losing by others amounting in the aggregate to millions of dollars. Speculation! Gambling!

Finally the report came in. "The most 'bearish' ever known," remarked one of Raleigh's leading business men. Eighty-eight was announced as the average condition for cotton against a ten-year average of 84.8, and a thirty-two million crop planted. This means if present conditions continue the largest crop ever grown. This is what the "bears" prophesy. They do not reckon on any disaster or set back, or scarcity of labor to gather the crop, nor the boll-weevil, nor any of a dozen other things that may befall the crop before it is finally harvested—and the price continues to go down.

A few months ago cotton was worth in New York fifteen to seventeen cents per pound. Today spot cotton is worth 10.65, and December cotton is quoted at nine and one-half cents per pound. The decline in price is based entirely on prospects and expectancy—prospects of a large crop and expecting the farmer to rush it on the market as fast as he can get it in marketable condition.

The hue and cry that the high prices of cotton during the past year have wrought great loss to the manufacturers of Germany, and have thrown thousands out of employment in England, and as a further consequence the cotton mills all over the world are either idle or running on short time—this is talked by speculators of the crocodile tear variety who would rather see low-priced cotton, bringing to them large profits, even if poverty and want stalk boldly all over the cotton-growing States, than to see cotton bring good prices and the farmers prosperous and happy, if such a condition would lessen their profits.

The Manufacturers' Record and the Southern Farm Magazine state the situation nicely when they say these "bear" speculators fail to explain that the mills are idle for lack of cotton to work, that to run on full time would work up all the cotton in sight before the new crop will come on the market. The efforts of these and other papers to keep the price of cotton up by exposing the humbugger connected with much of the "bear" movement should be appreciated by the farmers of the South, and I have no doubt will be.

We can readily see how foreigners and persons who have no interest in the welfare of the people of the South can engage in pulling down our

chief industry, cotton, so as to buy it at a lower price; but it is hard to understand how our own people, people whose every interest is here in the South, can engage in a fight on the price of cotton that will rob the Southern farmer of half its value. And yet we have just such people in our midst. The "bear" at home does us more damage than two "bears" abroad can do, for he is supposed to have an insight into the true situation; therefore is regarded as authority and sets the pace for his colleague, our foreign enemy beyond the seas, and also to those occupying the "pit" in New York.

But notwithstanding the efforts of our friends (?) here at home who are against us in prices, and their allies in New York, Liverpool and elsewhere, there is a remedy in the hands of the farmers themselves if they will only use it. The remedy lies in organization and a determination not to sell at less than a fair price.

Already it is being stated that cotton will sell for less than eight cents per pound this fall. So it may, if the producers have no say in regard to the price, but leave that entirely to the purchaser, who will buy at the very lowest price he can.

Early in the season last summer there was a prospect of a short cotton crop, notwithstanding the acreage was the largest ever planted. The farmers met in convention and resolved not to sell for a less price than ten cents per pound. Daniel Sully, the cotton farmer's friend, was then in the market. Through the determination of the farmers not to sell for less than ten cents per pound, and not to sell at all except as the trade demanded the cotton, and Sully's presence in the "pit," the crop of approximately ten million bales has sold for about \$660,000,000, or twice as much as the crop of 1898, which was nearly two million bales larger than the crop just disposed of.

This fact should put the farmers of the South to thinking, and cause them to take some definite action. The farmers of the South cannot afford to lose a third or half the price of a cotton crop; and to use a slang phrase, "They don't have to." There has never been a time when the farmers could command the situation so well as they can now. The scare-crow of two million bales annually brought over and exhibited as the over-production bogey has vanished, and the season will open with a bare market. The world has been educated to use cotton goods and must have them. There is nowhere to get them except from Southern grown cotton. The South grows three-fourths of the world's supply of cotton, and can be master of the situation. The "bears" tell us cotton will be grown in Africa, in India, and in many other places; but the truth of the matter is, it IS grown in the South, and we need not let the "will be" argument cause us any uneasiness for some years, and certainly we need not let it affect the price of the coming crop, whether that crop be large or small. We cannot tell the size of the crop yet. The rains, nor the drought, nor the boll-weevil, nor the pickers have sent in their reports, so we cannot tell just the effect they will have on the size of the crop.

However, there is no time to lose. Prepare for a big crop and if it should prove to be a smaller

one than present conditions promise, it will be easier cared for. Let there be county and State meetings held in every cotton-growing section, and take definite action. One of the State's largest cotton farmers told me a short while since that he felt sure the cotton growers' meetings last year did a great deal toward advancing prices. At the State meetings, arrangements should be made for an inter-state meeting so as to have unity of action all along the line. Much can be accomplished in this way.

Arrangements for storing cotton and securing advances on the same can be effected. By this means cotton need not be put on the market faster than the trade demands it.

I see from the Manufacturers' Record that a "\$20,000,000 Cotton Handling Company" has been formed at St. Louis, with Sully as president. That may mean very much for the cotton farmers. There can be many similar companies, though of much smaller capital, formed. These ware-houses for the storage of cotton can be made the key to the situation.

The cotton farmers need have no fear if they will come together with a determination bristling with genuine Southern fever and unconquerable will. The time for action is now at hand.

T. B. PARKER,  
Secretary North Carolina Farmers' State Alliance.

Raleigh, N. C., July 5, 1904.

### Come to the State Farmers' Convention.

The Progressive Farmer again calls attention to the second annual Farmers' Convention for North Carolina to be held at the A. & M. College, Raleigh, N. C., Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, August 1-3, 1904. It is an unusually fine program which has been prepared on subjects of a practical nature, all dealing with North Carolina agriculture. Tickets will be sold on Monday, August 1, only, one fare plus twenty-five cents for the round trip; tickets good returning until August 6. Ask for Summer School tickets. Board and room will be furnished at the college for fifty cents per day.

Remember the place and the date. Bring your wives with you and let all enjoy a pleasant and profitable outing.

Further information can be obtained by addressing the secretary, C. W. Burkett, West Raleigh, N. C.

I have been obliged to board in town for the last two months, and know my landlady has had to prepare meals for fifteen to forty persons per day, and is able to keep but one girl. When the bills and rent are paid, she will have two cents profit from each boarder per day, providing some rascal does not "beat the board bill," or potatoes go no higher. Not a minute of time to herself; steady work all day for the barest kind of a living! A farmer's wife is a queen, living a queen's life, in contrast. The hardest-worked farmer's wife I know of is taking it easy beside this "town lady."—C. E. Chapman.

A Farmers' Institute was announced in last week's Progressive Farmer for "Ashpole, Randolph County." It should have been Ashboro.